34

Pol 23-8 UR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

(52)

CONFIDENTIAL 476

PAGE 01 MONTEV 01583 060043Z

82-91
ACTION ARA-11

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00
INR-06 USSS-00 SY-01 O-03 P-01 PRS-01 PM-03 AID-12
DODE-00 L-02 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /073 W
096553

O 052345Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8046
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1583

LIMDIS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: MITRIONE KIDNAPPING - PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT

REF. : MONTEVIDEO'S 1575

1. FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT I PLAN PUT ON RADIO AND VIDEO TAPE FOR RELEASE TO LOCAL MEDIA SHORTLY AFTER GORDON JONES' DEPARTURE AT NOON TOMORROW, AUGUST 6. PLEASE CABLE ASAP DEPT APPROVAL TEXT OR SUGGESTED CHANGES.

BEGIN TEXT

GOOD AFTERNOON. FIRST OF ALL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING DURING THE PAST WEEK. I AM WELL AWARE OF YOUR DESIRE FOR INFORMATION AND OF THE FACT THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU, BUT I AM SURE THAT YOU KNOW THAT MY PARAMOUNT CONCERN IS THE SAFETY OF DAN MITRIONE AND MY EFFORTS SINCE THE TRAGIC KIDNAPPING HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT EARLIER.

(1)

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

GORDON JONES, SECOND SECRETARY OF THIS EMBASSY, AGAINST WHOM A KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT WAS MADE LAST FRIDAY, AND HIS FAMILY, HAVE JUST DEPARTED FOR THE UNITED STATES. THE ORDEAL WHICH GORDON AND HIS FAMILY HAVE JUST BEEN THROUGH HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT AND YOU CAN ALL APPRECIATE THAT A REST HAS BEEN EARNED AND WILL BE WELCOME. AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, MRS. JONES GAVE BIRTH TO TWINS (THEIR FIRST CHILDREN) ON JUNE 27 SO THAT ANXIETY OVER HER HUSBAND'S HEALTH AND SECURITY DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY TRYING FOR HER. GORDON WAS DUE FOR HIS HOME LEAVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT I HAVE AUTHORIZED THAT THAT VACATION BE ADVANCED TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EARLY REST WITHIN THE COMFORT OF FAMILY SURROUNDINGS IN CALIFORNIA.

AS I BELIEVE ALL OF YOU KNOW NATHAN ROSENFELD, CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER OF THIS EMBASSY SUFFERED A BRUTAL ATTACK BY THE KIDNAPPERS AT THE SAME TIME THAT JONES WAS BEING TAKEN. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT HE IS NOW COMPLETE RECOVERED.

AS OF NOW THERE IS STILL NO CHANGE IN THE TRAGIC AND DANGEROUS SITUATION OF DAN MITRIONE. HE HAS BEEN HELD CAPTIVE BY KIDNAPPERS SINCE LAST FRIDAY. WE HAVE HAD NO NEWS OF HIS PYSHICAL CONDITION OTHER THAN THAT CONTAINED IN A NOTE TO MRS. MITRIONE ON AUGUST 2 AND THE FACT THAT HE IS RECOVERING AS STATED IN THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE KIDNAPPERS REPORTED BY THE JEFETURA DE POLICIA ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5. HOWEVER, WE ARE INFORMED THAT HE SUFFERED A NEAR-FATAL GUNSHOT WOUND AND WE CONTINUE TO BE GRAVELY CONCERNED FOR HIS PHYSICAL WELL BEING AND ESPECIALLY SO BECAUSE OF THE HIGH RISK OF INFECTION AND HIS ALLERGY TO PENICILLIN AND PENICILLIN-RELATED DRUGS.

PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS HAVE APPEALED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, FOR BOTH DAN AND HIS FAMILY, THAT HE BE IMMEDIATELY PLACED IN A HOSPITAL FOR EXTENSIVE EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT. I AM SURE ALL DECENT PEOPLE SHARE THIS SENTIMENT.

I HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT FROM THE OUTSET AND HAVE MADE VERY CLEAR TO THEM OUR CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF DAN MITRIONE. I HAVE MET WITH PRESIDENT PACHECO WHO HAS EXPRESSED BOTH HIS CONCERN AND REGRET TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND TO ME AND HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT HE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EFFECT

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MONTEV 01583 060043Z

THE RELEASE OF THE CAPTIVE MEN.

I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS FOR THE MANY EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY SHOWN ME IN PERSON AND IN WRITING BOTH BY MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AND BY SO MANY URUGYAYAN FRIENDS. THE WISHES AND PRAYERS OF SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE ARE A SOURCE OF GREAT COMFORT AND HOPE TO ME, HIS MANY FRIENDS, AND HIS COUNTRYMEN, BUT ESPECIALLY TO THE FAMILY OF DAN MITRIONE.

TO KIDNAP AND HOLD TWO MEN INDEFINITELY IS REPREHENSIBLE BUT TO HOLD AS HOSTAGES ONE WHO REQUIRES CONTINUOUS MEDICATION AND ANOTHER WHO HAS SUFFERED A NEAR-FATAL WOUND IS BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING. THE ANGUISH OF THE MITRIONE AND GOMIDE FAMILIES IS IMMEASURABLE. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT BOTH MEN WILL BE RETURNED SAFELY AND SOON. END TEXT.

2. JONES FAMILY ITINERARY ALTERED TO OVERFLY BUENOS AIRES. NEW DEPARTURE MONTEVIDEO 1200 NOON AUGUST 6 VIA ALITALIA FLIGHT 580 TO SANTIAGO. THEREAFTER, FLIGHT REMAINS SAME AS CONTAINED MONTEVIDEO'S 1559. EMBASSIES SANTIAGO AND LIMA BEING ALERTED.
ADAIR

DECLASSIFIED